From: Alpert, Neal
To: Alpert, Neal
Subject: Possible Response to Dittmarr re Mass Against HP
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 3:56:00 PM

Dear Professor Dittmarr,

Thank you very much for reaching out to the City Council and sharing your thoughts on this important matter. I will say upfront that it is very difficult for me to fully contemplate a resolution when I have not yet actually seen a draft of the resolution – at this point, there are rumblings and whispers being passed throughout the community as to what this resolution may or may not say, but until such time as I have a document in front of me that I can review, it's difficult for me to determine whether or not I shall ultimately be supporting it.

That said, I've certainly been hearing from passionate community members on both sides of the "boycott HP" issue. Some folks whom I have long known and respect have suggested that people of good conscience must support this resolution, as it strikes a symbolic blow against oppression and injustice; others whom I have known equally long and have held in equally high regard have cautioned that to support this boycott would be to unwittingly support a policy that at least has strains of anti-Semitic sentiment.

At its heart, this is less a municipal issue than an international one, and it certainly falls outside my area of expertise. That is why I am doing my own research, reaching out to members of the congressional delegation, and trying to separate out the different layers here. As I am fond of saying, I always want Cambridge to do the right thing, and whenever possible, I want us to avoid doing the right thing the wrong way. So I am still reviewing this matter, I look forward to learning more, and should this come before the City Council, I will do all that I can to ensure that we have a robust discussion in which all sides feel they've had a chance to be respectfully heard.

E. Denise Simmons